

coronary ostia and the brachiocephalic artery" since the term "ascending aorta" includes this area.

Claims 55-57 were rejected over Bertolero. Applicants submit that Bertolero is not prior art as to the pending claims since the claims are supported by the parent application which has a filing date earlier than Bertolero.

Claims 55-58 were rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Patent No. 5,765,568. Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate this rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would assist in the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (415) 412-3322.

Please charge any required fees, including any necessary extension-of-time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-1510.

Respectfully submitted,

Date February 2, 2001


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